Production of spices

2444. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the production of spices in the country during the last three years, year-wise and product-wise;

(b) India's share in the export of spices in the world;

(c) whether it is fact that a need to set up Spices Authority to look into the research, production, value-addition, export promotion of spices, etc. has arisen;

(d) if so, whether any steps have been taken or are proposed to be taken in this direction;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) The production of spices in the country during the last three years year-wise and product-wise is given below:

000 tonnes

Crops	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05
Pepper	72.47	73.22	79.64
Ginger	277.00	303.35	397.99
Chillies	894.60	1235.37	1185.29
Turmeric	522.20	564.28	716.84
Cardamom	15.50	16.65	16.60
Garlic	468.31	702.65	658.50
Coriander	174.31	387.75	326.60
Cumin	134.76	134.76	134.76
Fennel	27.28	27.78	27.78
Fenugreek	64.22	64.22	64.22

Crops	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05
Ajwain	1.63	1.63	1.63
Other seed spices	7.99	7.99	7.99
Clove	1.37	1.81	1.81
Nutmeg	2.18	2.53	2.53
Tamarind	182.34	179.31	179.31
Cinnamon	1.66	1.66	1.66
Tejpat	14.61	14.62	14.62
Others	0.10	0.14	0.14
TOTAL	2863.04	3721.71	3817.90

(b) World trade in spices is in the order of 7.50 lakh tones valued at 1650 million US$. India commands a formidable position in the world spice trade with 43% share in volume and 31% in value (2005-06).

(c) to (f) In the Department Related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Commerce's 80th Report, on functioning of the Spices Board, the committee has recommended that a Spices Development Authority should be set up with the larger mandate covering research, production value addition, domestic self sufficiency and export promotion. Since the National Horitculture Mission, the Directorate of Arecanut & Spices Developments, the India Institute of Spices Research and the Spices Board are looking after the production, research and export promotion, it does not appear to be necessary to set up a Spices Development Authority.

Enhanced cooperation in high technology areas

2445. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are taking major steps towards enhancing cooperation in high technology areas, to improve trade with different countries;

(b) if so, the details thereof for the last three years; and

(c) how it would be useful to our country?